

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY
STUDENTS—JOSEPH HAYS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of young men and women who have been chosen as future leaders in our armed forces by the prestigious United States service academies. It is a privilege to send such a fine group from the third district of Texas to pursue a world-class education and serve our nation.

As we keep them and their families in our prayers, may we never forget the sacrifices they are preparing to make while defending our freedoms all across the globe. I am so proud of each one. God bless them and God bless America.

Today I salute Joseph Hays, a United States Air Force Academy Appointee. Joseph is a graduate of Plano West Senior High School where he was a part of the varsity wrestling team. While excelling academically, Joseph gave of his time at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton's Parish Pastoral Council as a Board Member, and worked as a Lifeguard for the City of Plano and swim teacher. Joseph comes from a military oriented family, where his grandparents served in WWII and Korea. His stepfather served as a Black Hawk pilot and instructor. After life at the Academy, Joseph aspires to attend medical school to serve as a medical doctor in the United States Armed Forces. Joseph feels that his dedication toward his goal of attending a Service Academy reflects his values as both a devout Christian and as an American.

RECOGNIZING THE 68TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATION OF THE
BAKERS CREEK AIR CRASH IN
AUSTRALIA DURING WORLD WAR
II

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Bakers Creek Memorial ceremony being held today at the Selfridge Gate to Arlington National Cemetery at Fort Myer, Virginia.

Sixty-eight years ago today, a Boeing B-17C bomber flying with forty-one soldiers and airmen from Bakers Creek, Australia to New Guinea crashed upon takeoff, killing forty individuals. Due to the Army's subsequent classification of the event, the victims' families were not informed about the details of their loved ones' peril until recently. Thanks to the persistence of the Bakers Creek Memorial Association and the victims' families, the events of Bakers Creek are not only known today, but are honored by a monument in Arlington.

I am proud to have joined the effort to bring the Bakers Creek monument from the Australian Embassy to a permanent home on American soil. Pennsylvanians have a strong connection to this monument, as six of the forty victims of the tragic plane crash called Pennsylvania home. Many of my Congres-

sional colleagues from Pennsylvania, and both Senators, actively supported the effort to move this monument to its rightful home in Arlington. The Pennsylvania State Legislature also passed a resolution designating June 14th as Bakers Creek Memorial Day.

The distinguished speaker at today's ceremony at Selfridge Gate, the Honorable L. Jerry Hansen, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment, graciously accepted the monument two years ago on behalf of the Secretary of the Army. The Department of the Army pledged to protect and honor the monument at Fort Myer, as a permanent tribute to the brave soldiers and airmen who perished at Bakers Creek, as well as their families.

I am pleased to thank Army Secretary John McHugh and Fort Myer Garrison Commander, Col. Carl R. Coffman, for arranging this appropriate and dignified memorial ceremony—with high standards of military honor. I am confident that this ceremony will be repeated each year on the anniversary date of the tragic crash.

I extend my deepest sympathies to the family members of the heroic American warriors who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation during World War II. But for their selfless and courageous service, the freedoms we enjoy today would not be. I and all Americans are forever indebted to these true heroes.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
MILITARY SERVICE OF CAPTAIN
THOMAS H. FARRIS

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Captain Thomas H. Farris on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Coast Guard (USCG). I offer Captain Farris my sincerest thanks for his 30 years of dedicated service in protecting our nation and safeguarding its future.

An accomplished aviator, Captain Farris possesses over 6700 hours of flight time in six different aircraft throughout his 30 years of service as a veteran of the U.S. Army and USCG. He most recently served as the Coast Guard's Chief of Aviation Safety. In that capacity he was responsible for the USCG Aviation Safety program and one of only three senior aviators exercising program level oversight over the design, development, implementation, delivery and sustainment of all USCG aviation programs.

Captain Farris has distinguished himself by extraordinary acts of leadership. Among his many achievements, Captain Farris won the U.S. Army's European Helicopter Championship early in his career along with 18 shipboard deployments and extensive airborne Law Enforcement experience in the North Atlantic, Caribbean and Eastern Pacific theatres.

Captain Farris' service in his current position as the USCG Captain of the Port of San Diego is the capstone to his military career. As the Coast Guard Captain for San Diego, he is responsible for the safe conduct of commercial maritime activity on all federally navigable waterways within an area that extends from 200

nautical miles offshore San Diego then east to the Colorado River from the Mexico border to Utah.

Along with his many roles and responsibilities, Captain Farris serves as the designated Federal Maritime Security Coordinator and Chair of the Area Maritime Security Committee overseeing commercial vessel and facilities compliance with the Maritime Transportation Security Act. He also serves as the Operational Commander for the USCG air and surface force carrying out Search and Rescue and Maritime law enforcement authority. Additionally, Captain Farris plays a pivotal role as the Senior Officer Ashore in San Diego as the primary local USCG representative to the San Diego County military, federal and civilian community.

As he enters this new stage of his life, I hope that Captain Farris will benefit from his years of work, just as the United States Military has benefited. I offer him my warmest congratulations and may he enjoy a rewarding retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to please join me in honoring all the brave men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces, and the admirable service of Captain Thomas Farris.

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY
STUDENTS—ELIZABETH CARPENTER

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of young men and women who have been chosen as future leaders in our armed forces by the prestigious United States service academies. It is a privilege to send such a fine group from the third district of Texas to pursue a world-class education and serve our nation.

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Today I salute Elizabeth Carpenter, a United States Air Force Academy Appointee. Elizabeth is a graduate of Plano East Senior High School where she excelled at many things. She was a strong student who participated in National Honor Society and the International Baccalaureate Program. Elizabeth is also an accomplished athlete. She played varsity volleyball and was the team captain at Plano East. She comes from a family of service as her grandfather graduated from the United States Military Academy and retired as a colonel from the Air Force and her sister is currently at the U.S. Naval Academy. Elizabeth has aspirations to become a pilot. Elizabeth chose to apply to the Air Force Academy because she is certain it is only there she can study her interest in aviation and give her a foundation that she can apply in any endeavor.